THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National bio-fuel centre

2278. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Petroleum Conservation Research Association has recently started National Bio-fuel Centre;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the national Bio-fuel Centre;

(c) the details of Government's plan to produce bio-fuel directly or indirectly in the country at the end of the current plan; and

(d) what action plan does it have for generating more and more bio-fuel?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Aims and objectives of the Centre are:

To provide information on bio-fuels to various target groups i.e. farmers, entrepreneurs and concerned Government agencies.

To spread awareness about bio-fuels among masses.

To share information with other institutions working in the field of bio-fuels.

(c) and (d) The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which recommended the launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on the plantation of Jatropha Curcas. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal ministry for the National Mission on Bio-diesel and that Ministry has recently got a Detailed Project Report(DPR) prepared by the Energy and Research Institute (TERI). The DPR, *inter alia* envisages plantation of Jatropha Curcus over 4 lakh hectares in different States. The DPR needs to be processed further for approval of the Planning Commission and the Government, before the project gets taken up for implementation.